

107TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 956

To amend titles IV and XX of the Social Security Act to restore funding for the Social Services Block Grant, and restore for fiscal year 2002 the ability of States to transfer up to 10 percent of funds from the program of block grants to States for temporary assistance for needy families to carry out activities under the Social Services Block Grant.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 8, 2001

Mrs. JOHNSON of Connecticut (for herself, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. MALONEY of Connecticut, Mr. LARSON of Connecticut, Mr. HILLIARD, Mr. SHAYS, Mr. WATKINS, Mr. STRICKLAND, Mr. HINCHEY, Mr. CRAMER, Mrs. MALONEY of New York, Mr. RANGEL, Mr. ENGLISH, Mr. FROST, Mr. McNULTY, Mr. JEFFERSON, Mr. HOUGHTON, Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD, Mr. FRANK, Mr. BALDACCI, Mr. CAMP, Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. SHIMKUS, Mr. COYNE, Mr. MATSUI, Mr. WALSH, Mr. SAXTON, Mr. McDERMOTT, Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California, Mr. GUTIERREZ, Ms. KILPATRICK, Mr. MENENDEZ, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. RAMSTAD, Mrs. MORELLA, Mr. BARRETT, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Ms. LEE, Mr. ABERCROMBIE, Mr. HAYWORTH, Mr. DeLAURO, Mr. HALL of Ohio, Mr. ENGEL, Mr. SIMMONS, Mr. SANDLIN, Mr. KLECZKA, and Mr. SHAW) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Ways and Means

A BILL

To amend titles IV and XX of the Social Security Act to restore funding for the Social Services Block Grant, and restore for fiscal year 2002 the ability of States to transfer up to 10 percent of funds from the program of block grants to States for temporary assistance for

needy families to carry out activities under the Social Services Block Grant.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. FINDINGS.**

4 Congress makes the following findings:

5 (1) Since 1975, title XX of the Social Security
6 Act (42 U.S.C. 1397 et seq.), commonly referred to
7 as the Social Services Block Grant (in this section
8 referred to as “SSBG”), has authorized funding for
9 social services to ensure that at-risk children and
10 families, the elderly, and physically and mentally dis-
11 abled individuals remain stable, independent, and
12 economically self sufficient. In 1981, Congress and
13 the Reagan Administration converted SSBG into a
14 block grant designed to give maximum flexibility to
15 States to serve these fundamental purposes.

16 (2) Funds provided under the SSBG focus cost-
17 effective support at the community level that pre-
18 vents the need for inappropriate institutional care
19 which is more costly for Federal and State programs
20 such as the medicaid, medicare, and the social serv-
21 ices disability benefits programs.

22 (3) The SSBG helps to further the goals set
23 forth in the Personal Responsibility and Work Op-
24 portunity Reconciliation Act of 1996 (Public Law

1 104–193; 110 Stat. 2105) by supporting Temporary
2 Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) and support-
3 related programs such as on-the-job training, child
4 care, transportation, counseling, and other services
5 that facilitate long-term family stability and eco-
6 nomic self sufficiency.

7 (4) The SSBG provides essential funding to
8 many States for child welfare services that support
9 the goals of the Adoption and Safe Families Act of
10 1997 (Public Law 105–89; 111 Stat. 2115) to pro-
11 mote a safe family environment and encourage adop-
12 tion to move children into stable and permanent
13 families.

14 (5) The SSBG helps promote independent living
15 for vulnerable and low-income elderly individuals by
16 supporting home care services, including home-deliv-
17 ered meals, adult protective services, adult day care,
18 and other essential case management services pro-
19 vided in every State.

20 (6) It is reported that 820,000 older Americans
21 are abused and neglected in this country each year.
22 There are additional concerns about the under re-
23 porting of elderly abuse and neglect. The SSBG sup-
24 ports adult protective services that prevent wide-
25 spread abuse and neglect of older Americans and

1 help more than 651,000 elderly individuals in 31
2 States.

3 (7) More than 570,000 disabled individuals re-
4 ceive a range of community-based services and sup-
5 ports nationwide. The SSBG provides significant re-
6 sources to fill the funding gaps in the developmental
7 disabilities system by supporting such services as
8 early intervention and crisis intervention, adult day
9 care, respite care, transportation, employment train-
10 ing, and independent living services in 38 States.

11 (8) The SSBG supports essential mental health
12 and related services to ensure that vulnerable adults
13 and children receive early intervention to prevent
14 more serious and costly mental health crises in the
15 future. Such services include the provision of coun-
16 seling to almost 400,000 adults and children, case
17 management services for nearly 900,000 families,
18 and the provision of information and referral assist-
19 ance to more than 1,300,000 individuals.

20 (9) There are nearly 3,000,000 reports of child
21 abuse and neglect each year. There are currently
22 over 300,000 children in the American foster care
23 system. The SSBG enables the provision of child
24 protective services to 1,300,000 children, adoption
25 services to over 150,000 children and families, and

1 prevention and intervention services to more than
2 700,000 families.

3 (10) The SSBG has been eroded by more than
4 \$1,000,000,000 over the last 6 years resulting in
5 cuts in services in many States and local commu-
6 nities.

7 (11) Temporary Assistance to Needy Families
8 (TANF) block grants cannot be used to make up
9 cuts to the SSBG because a large percentage of
10 SSBG funds are used for the elderly, disabled, and
11 other populations that are ineligible for TANF
12 funds.

13 (12) The 104th Congress made a commitment
14 to the SSBG in the Personal Responsibility and
15 Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996 by au-
16 thorizing the program at \$2,380,000,000 through
17 fiscal year 2002 and returning the authorization for
18 the program to \$2,800,000,000 in fiscal year 2003
19 and each succeeding fiscal year.

1 **SEC. 2. RESTORATION OF AUTHORITY TO TRANSFER UP TO**
 2 **10 PERCENT OF TANF FUNDS TO THE SOCIAL**
 3 **SERVICES BLOCK GRANT FOR FISCAL YEAR**
 4 **2002.**

5 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 404(d)(2)(B) of the So-
 6 cial Security Act (42 U.S.C. 604(d)(2)(B)) is amended to
 7 read as follows:

8 “(B) APPLICABLE PERCENT.—For pur-
 9 poses of subparagraph (A), the applicable per-
 10 cent is—

11 “(i) 10 percent in the case of fiscal
 12 year 2001; and

13 “(ii) 10 percent in the case of fiscal
 14 year 2002.”.

15 (b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by
 16 subsection (a) shall take effect on October 1, 2001.

17 **SEC. 3. RESTORATION OF FUNDS FOR THE SOCIAL SERV-**
 18 **ICES BLOCK GRANT.**

19 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 2003(c) of the Social Se-
 20 curity Act (42 U.S.C. 1397b(c)) is amended by striking
 21 paragraphs (10) and (11) and inserting the following:

22 “(10) \$1,775,000,000 for the fiscal year 2000;

23 “(11) \$1,725,000,000 for the fiscal year 2001;

24 and

25 “(12) \$2,380,000,000 for the fiscal year
 26 2002.”.

1 (b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by
2 subsection (a) shall take effect on October 1, 2001.

3 **SEC. 4. REQUIREMENT TO SUBMIT ANNUAL REPORT ON**
4 **STATE ACTIVITIES.**

5 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 2006(c) of the Social Se-
6 curity Act (42 U.S.C. 1397e(c)) is amended by adding at
7 the end the following: “The Secretary shall compile the
8 information submitted by the States and submit that in-
9 formation to Congress on an annual basis.”.

10 (b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by
11 subsection (a) applies to information submitted by States
12 under section 2006 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C.
13 1397e) with respect to fiscal year 2000 and each fiscal
14 year thereafter.

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